

Letters from James J. Storrow to Edward B. Brown, from May 12, 1887, to November 10, 1888

May 12, 1887. Dear Mr. Brown:

I have your two letters. I do not think it worth while to send to Mrs. Brown. Ten year old memories, on a point which itself is so remote as only to raise a probability, are not worth much.

Yours truly, J. J. Storrow. Edward B. Brown, Esq., Imperial Buildings, 30 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Canada.

July 18, 1887. My dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 14th. Will you please draw the statement as I asked to have the affidavit drawn, so as to express Mr. Gordon Brown's knowledge with accuracy, and then ask him either to sign it, or to attach it to a letter to me saying that it accurately expresses his knowledge on the subject.

Yours truly, J. J. Storrow. Edward B. Brown, Esq., Imperial Bldgs., Toronto, Canada.

Nov. 19, 1887. Edw. B. Brown, Esq., 30 Adelaide St., Toronto. Dear Sir:

I ought to have answered your last letter.

Mr. Brown's recollection seems to be clear on the main history, and as vague about some of the details as any honest memory ought to be after a dozen years, and he seems to have the somewhat rare faculty of distinguishing between what he remembers and what he does not. So it satisfies me as to the general facts.

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Do I owe you anything more for your services? If I do, will you kindly let me know.

Yours truly, J. J. Storrow.

May 12, 1888. Edward B. Brown, Esq., 30 Adelaide St. East, Toronto. Dear Sir:

Mr. Bell was at Brantford in Sept., '75, and again at Christmas, '75. But he was also there (or wherever his father lived at the time) in the summer and fall of 1874, and was then somewhat enthusiastic about his telephone, and it would be worth while to look back to July 1, '74.

I will pay your fraft, but I should like it rather better if in future you would write me and let me send you a check.

Yours truly, J.J.Storrow.

Aug. 10, 1888. Edward W. Brown, Esq., Toronto. Dear Sir:

I have your letter of Aug. 3. I do not care for anything after April, '76. It is the papers of the fall of '75 that I particularly wanted.

I enclose a check to your order for \$200.

Yours truly, J. J. Storrow.

Nov. 6, '88. Dear Sir:

I have your letter of Nov. 3. I do not see anything more to be done in the matter.

Yours truly, J. J. Storrow. Edw. B. Brown, Esq., 30 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Canada.

Nov. 10, 1888. Edward B. Brown, Esq., 30 Adelaide St. East, Toronto. Dear Sir:

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I have your letter of Nov. 8, enclosing your bill.

I return the bill with my check for the amount, viz: \$289. Please receipt the bill, and say on it that it is paid by me .

Yours truly, James J. Storrow.

June 28, 1887. Edward B. Brown, Esq., Barrister, Imperial Buildings, 38 Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont. My dear Sir:

I do not now see that we can do anything more to fix any dates in the matter of the Messrs. Brown contract with Mr. Bell. I should like, however, to have Mr. Gordon Brown's recollections put into the form of a written statement and sworn to. In one sense, it would not be evidence at a trial, of course, but I do not expect ever to need it for that purpose. I should like, however, as part of the history of the case, and as a paper to have by me in case of any sudden need, to have an affidavit from him. I have drawn one which I enclose, and which I think expresses his recollections. But my chief object is to get his recollection exactly as it is, and therefore I do not want you to confine yourself to the language I have used, but to put the matter just as it lies in his mind, and, so far as convenient, in his own language.

Very truly yours, J. J. Storrow.

I, J. GORDON BROWN, on oath depose and say:

I reside in Toronto, and am Judge of the Court of Probate. The late Mr. GEORGE BROWN was my brother. In 1875 my brother Mr. George Brown and I made a contract with Mr. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL to take out in England patents on certain of his electrical inventions. I have recently seen the original contract, and recognized it, and I annex to this what I believe to be a copy of it. I well remember the making of that contract. I remember that while Mr. Bell was at Toronto at the time we made that contract he showed me a

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sketch of certain instruments connected with his inventions. I have recently seen that sketch, and recognized it. The lithograph which I annex I believe to be a copy of it. My brother, who owned a stock farm near Brantford, Ontario, where Mr. Bell's father lived, had in that way become acquainted with Mr. Bell's family, and was originally led to make the arrangement with Mr. Bell largely by considerations of friendship for Mr. Bell's father. Mr. Bell laid before us two different sets of inventions. One related to a telegraph which would send many messages at the same time over a single wire. The other was for the transmission of speech by electricity. I remember well that Mr. Bell, in his explanations to us at Toronto at the time we made the contract, in the end of the year 1875, was extremely enthusiastic about the speaking telephone, and his enthusiasm and his explanation about it made a great impression upon my mind, and I attached great importance to it. My brother, however, was more struck with the multiple telegraph, particularly as Mr. Bell did not appear to have attained any decided practical success with the speaking telephone; and therefore I think that my brother did not attach much importance to that part of Mr. Bell's work. I did, however.

When Mr. Bell made the contract with us he agreed to send to us as soon as he returned to Massachusetts a full description of the inventions, or a specification sufficient to enable patents to be taken out in England. He did so, and I remember very well that we received at Toronto before my brother left for England a package of these specifications. They have been recently shown to me, each of them bearing my brother's initials "G. B.", and I should say without hesitation that they are the same which we received at Toronto from Mr. Bell, sent by him from the United States on his return after we had made the contract. I remember very distinctly the fact that these papers came.

My brother went to England in the latter part of January, 1876, taking these with him. The exact date of his sailing can be ascertained from the steamer lists. I fully expected that my brother would take out patents in England on all these specifications, and I did not know until after his return that he did not do so. After his return, he told me that he had consulted some electrician in England about the plan for the multiple telegraph, and the electrician

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told him that he did not think it could be made to work so as to be of much commercial value; and that was the reason why the patents were not taken out. I understood that my brother did not consult that electrician about the speaking telephone part of it, and I remember that when he told me of this I was surprised that he had not, because that part of it had interested me very much, and struck me as likely to be of great importance.

The original papers to which I have referred will, I presume, be produced to speak for themselves whenever required. I have annexed what I suppose to be copies of two of them, merely for convenience and to make this statement more intelligible.